

**Superior Court of California
County of Riverside**

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NEWS For Immediate Release

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Superior Court of California, County of Riverside

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***Riverside County Superior Court Celebrates Juror
Appreciation Week (May 13-17)***

Riverside County - Riverside County's Courts will be joining courts throughout the State of California to celebrate Juror Appreciation Week (May 13-17) with activities to thank jurors and promote public awareness of the crucial role that jury duty plays in our judicial system. Over 500,000 Californians serve each year on juries.

During "Juror Appreciation Week," individuals reporting for jury duty in Riverside County will receive a little extra special attention. The courts will hang banners and hand out mementos, and court staff will wear ribbons proclaiming "Jurors Make the Difference." Jurors will be served refreshments, and judges will personally welcome all jurors during the week and present them with certificates of appreciation.

"Jury service is a vital component of the trial process, and jurors are essential to the successful operation of the judicial branch of government," said Presiding Judge Christian F. "Rick" Thierbach. "Jury service is often the most direct participation a citizen can have in the workings of government."

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Because the public may consider a call for jury duty to be an inconvenience, the Riverside County courts have implemented a very progressive jury improvement program to further reduce any burden. “I am particularly proud of the creation and opening of Children’s Rooms in our Hemet, Indio, and Riverside courthouses, “ continues Thierbach. “This is a service that will enable people who would otherwise be excused from jury service because of lack of child care to bring their children (ages 4 and up) with them to court while they serve as a juror.”

Other amenities included in the jury program are the one day/one trial/one year system whereby jurors are called to serve only for one day or one trial and then are excused for at least a year. Currently, 94 percent of the jurors reporting to the courthouse complete their service after the first day. The court has also been able to arrange with Riverside Transit Agency and Sunline for jurors to receive free bus transportation to and from the Riverside and Indio Courts while serving in those cities. Jurors can postpone their service to a date within 90 days (of the original summons date) or request to serve in another Riverside County Court location closer to work or home. Finally, jurors can donate their daily fee and mileage reimbursements to the Juror Trust Fund to be used toward providing jurors with free coffee/tea/hot chocolate, puzzles, games, new magazines in jury assembly rooms, and other amenities suggested by jurors.

The Riverside County Court’s dedication to jury improvement has increased juror utilization rates throughout the county. While the number of trials has increased, the number of jury duty summons mailed to citizens has decreased by 49 percent since 1999.

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